



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## Public Library

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Special Tours of Central Library Offered to Public in June** *Tours Part of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Central Library*

**SAN DIEGO** – The public will be treated to a trip back in history and a behind-the-scenes look at the Central Library with special tours three times a week throughout June. The free tours are part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Central Library and will be conducted at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

“These tours will provide participants a better understanding of the depth of resources available at the San Diego Public Library, and the Central Library in particular,” said City Library Director Anna Tatár. “I encourage anyone interested in libraries to take advantage of this opportunity.”

Highlights of the tours will include:

- Rare visits to the building’s two basement levels that contain more than 60 percent of the library’s collection.
- Special exhibits that showcase the library’s hidden treasures.
- Historical information about the Central Library and future plans.
- Sneak peeks at how the library has served the public for five decades.

Each tour will be limited to 12 people to allow participants an up-close and personal experience. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 619-236-5817 or by signing up at the Literature Desk of the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego.

The Central Library opened to the public with great fanfare on June 27, 1954, and a huge crowd

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turned out for the library's first day of operation. It replaced the old Carnegie Library that had occupied the same location since 1902. The Central Library is scheduled to be replaced by a new Main Library by 2007 on the block bounded by Park Boulevard and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and J and K streets. A groundbreaking for the new facility is expected to be held this fall.

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*The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future*